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Duxbury Clipper

Music students travel to DC

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SPECIAL TO THE CLIPPER

From April 7-10, multiple musical groups from Duxbury High School attended the annual Washington D.C. Heritage Music Festival. This is the second time Duxbury musicians attended the festival, a small fraction of the nearly 1,000 who attended. The festival hosted a range of ensembles from the United States. Duxbury musicians included Chamber Singers, String Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble.

Friday morning, the Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jim Donovan, performed inside D.C.'s National Christian Church. The choir performed superbly including the first movement from Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria.

After the choral performance, all groups went to the Kennedy Center to walk around and listen to the National Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra performs regularly for President Obama. Following the concert, the students went on a dinner cruise along the Potomac River. Despite a late night, the bands were up early Saturday morning for another rigorous day.

Many students considered Saturday morning's activity the best part of the trip. Each instrumental group was fortunate enough to work with George Mason University's Music Director and highly esteemed clinician Anthony Maiello.



Duxbury Music Students celebrate their awards after a successful trip to Washington D.C.

"He was an incredible director to work with," said Max Cook, a clarinetist with that Wind Ensemble.

Later Saturday everyone boarded buses to compete in the Music Festival in Leesburg, Virginia. The first group to perform at the festival was the Symphonic Band, conducted by Ric Madru and Jill Noerenberg. They performed three songs, including the well-known "Korean Folk Song" by John Barnes Chance. The String Ensemble, under the direction of Nick Tatarka, took the stage and performed incredibly in front of the judges and received the highest scores of Duxbury's groups. Among their pieces was John Rudder's "Suite for Strings."

The final group from Duxbury was the Wind Ensemble, conducted by Ric Madru and Jill Noerenberg. The Wind Ensemble program consisted of an impressive repertoire with pieces such as "Heroes Lost and Fallen" by David Gillingham.

The night ended with an Awards Banquet where one by one each group received an Excellent performance award. Each group scored a Gold in their category, a first in Duxbury history, and quite a precedent of musical success. The orchestra in particular is deserving of high praise for their winning of

Best Overall Orchestra in the whole festival. Duxbury received eight awards, including the Sweepstakes Award, an award for the highest scoring school of multiple groups.